

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (currently amended) A guard for placement in front of a swimming pool skimmer opening to prevent leaves and other floating debris from entering the skimmer opening, comprising:

an elongate body of open mesh ~~mesh-like~~ material having attaching means thereon  
5 for attachment of the body across a swimming pool skimmer opening, said body being adjustable to fit different size skimmer openings, and functioning to trap trapping floating debris and prevent ~~preventing~~ the debris from entering the skimmer opening.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A guard as claimed in claim 1 2, wherein:  
the guard is flexible, ~~whereby it can be flexed~~ and is bendable into an arcuate shape that enables the length of the guard to be shortened or lengthened, thereby adjusting the guard to fit different size skimmer openings.

4. (original) A guard as claimed in claim 3, wherein:  
the guard is made in one piece from a plastic material.

5. (original) A guard as claimed in claim 4, wherein:  
the attaching means comprises at least one suction cup at each end of the guard.

6. (original) A guard as claimed in claim 5, wherein:  
the attaching means further comprises a tab on each end of the elongate body, said at least one suction cup being carried by the tabs.

7. (currently amended) A guard as claimed in claim 6, wherein:  
the tabs are each joined to the body by a living hinge, whereby the tabs are ~~may be~~  
easily flexed to lie parallel to a surface of a swimming pool to which the guard is to be  
attached.

8. (original) A guard s claimed in claim 7, wherein:  
the guard is about thirty inches long and fifteen inches high.